

Yet the people of Ukraine resisted. They had been bound to the land, the fertile ground of Ukraine, for generations and they were not prepared to cede their way of life to toil in factories building Stalin's army.

So they fought the usurpation of their property the only way they knew how. They refused to leave it.

Stalin would not let this pass. He intended to crush the Ukrainian people into subservience. Not with direct violence but with a tactic just as deadly—starvation.

Stalin cut off the farmers from grain to seed their farms, from water, from their markets and thus from subsistence.

Between 1931 and 1933, the grip of famine spread throughout the Ukraine. Fields were over harvested. Food became scarce.

By its end, more than seven million people would perish in Ukraine due to hunger. This event stands as an unprecedented catastrophe, claiming the lives of nearly one-fourth of Ukraine's people.

Sadly, as the full details of the famine became known in the West, little action was taken to condemn Stalin's government for this crime. Our attention was fixed on our own financial circumstances as we overlooked the tragic famine in Ukraine.

This year is the 65 anniversary of the end of the great famine in Ukraine. The Ukrainian-American community in Chicago and throughout the nation have spent this year solemnly commemorating this unfortunate event. I join them in doing so.

I believe that we must forever remember this tragedy and teach our children of it.

We must do so in order to ensure that humanity never again endeavors to conceive another tragedy of this kind. This famine was of man's doing, a punishment for intransigence in the face of oppression. It did not have to happen. Nature had no part in this matter. Cruelty lies at its root.

So today, I ask my colleagues to remember Ukraine's famine by supporting H. Con. Res. 295. This resolution commemorates the "Ukrainian Famine Days of Remembrance" and recommit all of us to fight totalitarianism in all its forms so as to prevent future tragedies of this nature.

#### A TRIBUTE TO GILBERT CORTEZ

##### HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 1998*

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an entrepreneur who operates a successful restaurant in the Central Valley. Gilbert Cortez of Tulare County was recently recognized for his achievement by the Central Valley Chapter of the California Restaurant Association at its third annual Diamond Cuisine Awards Banquet.

Gilbert Cortez has owned and operated his family's restaurant in Visalia, California, Las Palmas, since 1965. In the 33 years he has been in operation, Mr. Cortez has developed his business into a highly successful restaurant with excellent service both to its customers and the local community.

Mr. Cortez has received the California Restaurant Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition to his many years of suc-

cess with Las Palmas, Mr. Cortez has also contributed generously to many causes in the community such as the Good News Center.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating this businessman for his remarkable achievements and in recognition of his service to the community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LEONARD AND AUDREY PACK

##### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 1998*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leonard and Audrey Pack.

I have known Mr. Pack and his family my entire life. Mr. Pack is truly a self-made man. He spent his teenage years working in a local textile mill, learning the textile business inside and out. His hard work and dedication resulted in his becoming one of the mill's most valued managers. Even after retirement, he started a smaller textile operation, where he continues to put in a full day's work.

Mr. Pack represents the ideal American dream. Anything is possible if you work hard and stay committed to your goals.

Mr. Pack's success in his profession was due in no small part to his commitment to his family. With his wife Audrey, the Packs raised a daughter, Patty, who raised two children of her own, Sherry and Rocky, with her husband, Bob Sclar, before she succumbed to cancer.

To honor his late wife, Audrey, and her love of books and dedication to the local library, Leonard Pack funded the exterior renovation of the existing public library. Redicated as the Audrey Pack Library, it was patterned after the Spring City Depot, another historic landmark in Spring City, our hometown.

In 1940, Mrs. Pack and a group of ladies in Spring City organized a chapter of the business and Professional Women's Club. The newly formed club decided to sponsor a library and Mrs. Pack agreed to act as librarian. The library of 75–100 books was housed in her small retail shop from 1940 to 1956, when it was moved to the city hall building.

Mr. Pack's generosity is a testament to his love for his family and the community in which he has lived for over eighty years. Having known Mr. Pack all of my life, it comes as no surprise that he would make such a statement in the way he did. A simple gesture from a self-made man with little fanfare but a lasting memorial.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 10, 1998*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2431, the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act of 1998. Essentially, this bill is an effort to protect one of the most sacred rights that human beings can enjoy, the right to seek out and worship the divine as they may deem fit.

All over the world, nations, sovereign powers and totalitarian groups are restricting the religious freedom of others. From Christians to Jews to Muslims to Bahai's, religious persecution, as we stand on the brink of the next millennium, is as widespread as ever. So, in response to this crisis, this bill establishes a new office in the State Department to monitor religious persecution overseas called the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, directs U.S. sanctions against countries and individuals determined to have engaged in religious persecution and ensures that our foreign service officers are trained in the bringing relief to refugees and persons seeking asylum.

As our history teaches us, many of the founders of this great nation crossed the imposing gulf of the Atlantic Ocean in order to preserve the sanctity of their personal religious choices. Without reservation, they flatly refused to let others dictate for them who they could worship and how that worship should be conducted. Instead of bowing to the suppression of their beliefs, these brave pioneers of a new and enlightened sense of public governance, chose to protect their freedom above all. Well over two centuries later, this same struggle is being fought again by literally millions of people around the globe who simply refuse to betray their most sacred beliefs about God.

In Sudan, in particular, this struggle has taken on genocidically proportions. Some reports estimate that well over one million people have been killed by the Sudanese government, both Christians and Muslims, fighting to preserve their most fundamental religious beliefs. In China, millions of "house church" Christians are forced to worship in absolute secrecy in order to prevent the government from interfering in the practice of their worship. In Tibet, Buddhists have been brutalized, their religious leaders jailed, and their most holy of worship places completely desecrated. In Iran, practicing Bahai's have been met with a rash of sudden executions. We have also learned about the violent terrorism against Christians in both Pakistan and Egypt, while the government of these nations have simply stood back and watched. So now that we know what is happening around us, what are we going to do about these on-going travesties of justice?

For me, the answer is as simple as this, we must take a stand on these important issues of principle. This bill, in my opinion, is a workable solution to these growing threats to religious freedom surging abroad. First of all, the bill does not exclude any religious groups from its protections. Whether you are Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu or something else, if you are persecuted because of your religious beliefs, this bill and its provisions will protect you. Furthermore, this bill is in no way mutually exclusive to any protections that may exist in current law for any other persecuted group. If you are persecuted for race, national origin, political affiliation or some other defining characteristic of personhood, existing federal law still addresses these concerns. Religion, I believe, because of the many on-going tragedies of persecution, terrorism and violence that I listed above, definitely deserves some form of special consideration and treatment. Thus, the necessity of creating a new federal sub-agency to be responsible for this volatile issue.

The newly created Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring in the State Department will be headed by a Director appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This

director should be recognized as an expert in the area of religious persecution and is barred specifically by the language of the bill, from holding any other federal position while serving in this capacity. More importantly though, this office is empowered by the bill to make findings of fact on any potential violations as discovered by the State Department and submit these findings to the Secretary (of State) and President with recommendations for action. Additionally, the office will create and issue an "Annual Report on Religions Persecution" that can be used by this Congress and other policy-makers to ensure that no oppression go un-noticed. This bill, in sum, is a powerful statement to nations of the world, that we will not countenance the rampant disregard of our fellow man's unalienable rights.

As for the bill's remaining provisions, in regard to the sanctions against aid given to countries that violate the religious freedom of their citizens; we should not, we must not, and we can not sit back and enrich governments that either conduct or condone the persecution of citizens on the basis of their religious beliefs. In all of our policy decisions, we need to show our displeasure with this kind of heinous conduct. This bill mandates that the President of the United States take action against all countries that engage in violations of religious freedom. It offers the President a list of options from which to choose an appropriate response, ranging from diplomatic protest to economic sanctions. That flexibility is important because it allows us to tailor our action so that more innocents are not hurt because of our mandated retaliation. Finally and importantly, this bill causes the creation of a structured asylum program for religious refugees a noble objective which is long overdue.

Millions of persecuted people around the world are waiting for this bill. I hope that we can send it to them unanimously.

#### CELEBRATING THE FRESNO BUSINESS COUNCIL'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to congratulate the Fresno Business Council on the occasion of its fifth Anniversary. This dedicated group of community leaders plays an important role in the community.

The Fresno Business Council began with just seven members, pulled together by president Bob Carter, who set out to discuss the problems facing the community and what they could do to help. They began to organize and focus their efforts to assist the public sector in addressing the challenges faced by Fresno County. The Council currently has 125 members, each of whom is selected from the highest level of local executives in business or major institutions in the public sector.

The Council operates four standing committees: Crime, Jobs and Economic Development, Education and Public Policy and Government Relations.

As part of their work, Crime Committee members have assisted the Fresno Police Department in getting past political barriers to implement policies involving real property and

burglar alarms. Through analysis and advocacy the Council provided merit-based arguments convincing the Fresno Bee not to pander to the public. In the coming year the focus of the council will be on consolidation of policing services whenever an improvement in efficiency or effectiveness can be demonstrated.

The Jobs and Economic Development Committee has a number of leaders, each putting their own mark on the agenda. Under its first chairman, Roger Flynn, the committee helped to create the one stop permitting center and began an incubator project. With Rich Olsson as chairman, the committee began exploration of permitting issues and training dollars. Current chairman Claude Laval has recently taken over the committee and they are now focused on regional strategic planning and collaboration among organizations.

The Education Committee has approached education in both comprehensive and specific ways. Committee members helped pass the Fresno Unified and Clovis Unified school bond measures, and sponsors Commission on the Future of Education in Fresno County with the County Office of Education. The Commission is studying all the aspects of how education is delivered in Fresno County.

The fourth standing committee is the Public Policy and Governmental Relations committee. It is through public and private partnerships that the Council implements its Agenda. The committee has hosted numerous meetings with elected officials to increase communication and build relationships.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Business Council in celebration of its fifth Anniversary. This group of leaders has done great things for the community. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Business Council many years of continued success.

#### EDUCATION DEBATE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 1998*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on the education debate that has consumed much of this Congress in recent days. For all the sound and fury generated by the argument over education, the truth is that the difference between the congressional leadership and the administration are not that significant; both wish to strengthen the unconstitutional system of centralized education. I trust I need not go into the flaws with President Clinton's command-and-control approach to education. However, this Congress has failed to present a true, constitutional alternative to President Clinton's proposals to further nationalize education.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the experiment in centralized control of education has failed. Even data from the National Assessment of Education Progress [NAEP] shows that students in States where control over education is decentralized score approximately 10 percentage points higher on NAEP's tests in math and reading than students from States with highly-centralized education systems. Clearly, the drafters of the Constitution knew what they were doing when they forbade the Federal Government from meddling in education.

American children deserve nothing less than the best educational opportunities, not warmed-over versions of the disastrous educational policies of the past. That is why I introduced H.R. 1816, the Family Education Freedom Act. This bill would give parents an inflation-adjusted \$3,000 per annum tax credit, per child for educational expenses. The credit applies to those in public, private, parochial, or home schooling.

This bill is the largest tax credit for education in the history of our great Republic and it returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty." Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the Federal Government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of Federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with State control. Restoring parental control is the key to improving education.

Of course I applaud all efforts which move in this direction. the Gingrich/Coverdell education tax cut, The Granger/Dunn bill, and, yes, President Clinton's college tax credits are good first steps in the direction I advocate. However, Congress must act boldly, we can ill afford to waste another year without a revolutionary change in our policy. I believe my bill sparks this revolution and I am disappointed that the leadership of this Congress chose to ignore this fundamental reform and instead focused on reauthorizing great society programs, creating new Federal education programs (such as those contained in the Reading Excellence Act and the four new Federal programs created by the Higher Education Act), and promoting the pseudo-federalism of block grants.

One area where this Congress was successful in fighting for a constitutional education policy was in resisting President Clinton's drive for national testing. I do wish to express my support for the provisions banning the development of national testing and thank Mr. GOODLING for his leadership in this struggle. However, I wish this provision did no come at the price of \$1.1 billion in new Federal spending. In addition, I note that this Congress is taking several steps toward creating a national curriculum, particularly through the Reading Excellence Act, which dictates teaching methodologies to every classroom in the Nation and creates a Federal definition of reading, thus making compliance with Federal standards the goal of education.

So, even when Congress resists one proposal to further nationalize education, it supports another form of nationalization. Some Members will claim they are resisting nationalization and even standing up for the 10th amendment by fighting to spend billions of taxpayer dollars on block grants. These Members say that the expenditure levels do not matter,